

NOVEMBER 1934

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND UP

VOL. III

NO. XXXV.

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD

DAVIS, NICK CARTER'S GHOST WRITER, DIES IN NEW BEDFORD.

DIED January 4, 1933.

The dime novel has lost another of its more famous contributors, in the death of Frederick W. Davis. Mr. Davis, who died yesterday in New Bedford, at the age of seventy-four, was one of the several "Nick Carter" authors. Frederick van Rensselaer Day, the creator of that master mind of detective fiction, killed himself, several years ago, because he "couldn't stand the gaff".

About 90 percent of the "Nick Carter" series were done by Day-- a herculean chore in letters, 36,000 words a week. When the load grew heavy, there always were "ghosts" to carry on. Mr. Davis was the principal one.

Mr. Davis did his best work under the non-de-plume "Scott Campbell". His best-known fictional character as readers with twenty-five year memories will recall, was "Harrison Keith". Mr. Davis turned out "Harrison Keith" stories until about fifteen years ago, when the sun began to set for the nickel and dime novel. He was a rapid writer, at times employing two stenographers. Of Campbell's stories, perhaps none were better known than those of the "Below the Dead-Line" series, which were followed by the "Adventures of Felix Boyd". Others were "A Bid for Life", "The Woman in Red", "The Doctor's Secret", "The Honor of a Black Sheep", "A Plot for Millions", "Sealed Lips", and "The Red Stain". Henry W. Ralston of the publishing firm of Street and Smith, which

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pioneered in the paper novel field,said of Mr.Davis, today: "He did some of the best detective stories I ever read.He was a craftsman, a darned good writer".

Born at his grandmother's home in Barnstable,on Nov.3,1858,Mr.Davis whose parents were Chelsea residents,grew up in that city and was graduated from the Chelsea High School. After leaving school,he worked for a time for the firm of Clark,Adams & Clark, crockery merchants. At this time, his serial story, "Saved by Death",published in the Boston Globe in 1893, was a notable success.He married Jennie B.Allen, daughter of Daniel B.Allen,New Bedford merchant tailor, in 1907.

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TIP TOP CLUB REPORT.

As many of you have read in the September issue of Dime Novel Round-Up,the Tip Top Club is being formed for the purpose of aiding all Tip Top specialists to complete their files.Thus far the following have stated their willingness to become members of this club,in the order named,and thus become members of the Tip Top Club, taking the numbers set in front of their respective names, as follows:

- No.1. M.E.Marsh, 205½ West Court St.,Ithaca, N.Y.
2. Robert H.Smoltzer, 3432 N.Bodine St.,Phila.,Pa.
3. Ralph F.Cummings,Pleasant St.,Grafton,Mass.
4. Wm.M.Kroling, 180 San Anselmo Ave.,San Francisco.
5. Raymond L.Caldwell,835 Highland Ave.,Lancaster,Pa.
6. Archie Hoviss,1381 Franklin Ave.,Bronx,N.Y.C.
- 7.Harold C.Holmes,358 Crown St.,New Haven,Conn.

It is desired that the above membership advise the undersigned at once, if they do not wish to continue as members.This is asked at this time, to give anyone not wishing to function with us,the opportunity to withdraw.

Immediately upon receipt of this issue of the Dime Novel Round-up, it is desired that all of the above listed members send in their complete lists of wants and duplicates of Tip Top Weekly, so that their lists can be compiled into one general list and be mailed to the members, as soon as possible.

It is understood there are others desirous of joining the Tip Top Club and they are asked to send their name and address, with their lists of wants and duplicates, so that they can be listed with the others and be included with the first lists mailed out.

Any members having completed their files are respectively asked to send in their list of duplicates just the same and may specify what they are particularly interested in exchanging them for.

Brother Harold C. Holmes offers some good suggestions that I desire to call to your attention at this time. He suggests that we have a question and answer department, and agrees to handle it for the members, the idea being to give information to any of the members asking any questions relative to the stories and characters therein, since many of them were written about Yale and New Haven, where Mr. Holmes has lived for 18 years and can doubtless give the information that is desired. Try him out if you wish.

Another good suggestion, I got from his letter is to have any of the members who have completed their file, to write a brief news item describing their, "thrill" in connection with the last gap filled in. Mr. Holmes writes me that he had a thrill, so let's ask him to write up his story for our next issue, telling us how he felt about it, and other circumstances in connection with his "thrill."

There are no dues to this club other than supplying the secretary with postage necessary to carry on and for mailing out the lists as issued. Supplementary issues will be issued from time to time as new members and corrected lists are received.

I now ask the co-operation of all members to hurry their lists to me so that I can get them compiled and back to all members as quickly as possible and thus rush up to fever heat, the interest of all before the cold weather advances too far.

Faternally yours,

M.E. MARSH. Sec'y.

205½ West Court St., Ithaca, N.Y.

COME UP AND SEE ME SOME

TIME. Says Charlie Austin.

Mr. Austin, or rather Brother Austin, of Philadelphia has a wonderful little gallery, full of wonders of the time, such as: 203 Pictures on the walls, and all under glass, all pertaining to old Story Papers, and Clippings of the old Pioneers, Frontiersman, Scouts, and Guides of the West, Pictures of Doc Carver, Powell, Buffalo Bill, Etc etc. Also there is the Fizee of the Chief of the Dime Novel Round-uppers is on the wall three times, also others, Bill Benners thinks they're great, Charlie also has a fine lot of real old time Dime & Nickel Novels, and Story Papers at attractive prices, from 50¢ to \$25.00 They are the real stuff too.

---:c:---

Can anyone tell me when Munro left Beadles and started his own business ? I have an old Dime Novel, dated 1864, and the Advs. in same are dated 1865.

This point may not be very important but it seems to be an error that is often repeated. Would also like data on the Adams Boys who worked for Beadles.

Can anyone answer these three questions ? ? ?

WARNING !

Here's another Farmer to look out for, for if he catches you, it'll be just too bad. He is, Arthur Million, 520 Tinton Ave., Bronx, New York.

---:c:---

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